REMARKS

Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 8, 11 - 14, 17 and 18 have been amended.

Claims 1 - 18 are present in the subject application.

In the Office Action dated June 29, 2006, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,692,129 (Sonderegger et al.) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,816,853 (Agarwal et al.). Briefly, the present invention is directed toward a database management system installed in a data processing system. The database management system manages a database having partitions for storing table data based on a partitioning schema, in which each partition has an associated partition identifier, and in which the database has database catalog information associated therewith. A partition identifier is identified in accordance with the partitioning schema, and the partition identifier is selected based on the contents of the query and the database catalog information. The query is executed against the identified partition. The technique improves the execution of queries while minimizing the consumption of network resources.

The Examiner takes the position that the Sonderegger et al. patent discloses the claimed subject matter, except for selecting the partition identifier based upon the contents of the query and the database catalog information, and executing the query against the identified partition. The Examiner further alleges that the Agarwal et al. patent discloses these features and that it

would have been obvious to combine the Sonderegger et al. and Agarwal et al. patents to attain the claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, independent claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended and recite the features of: retrieving information within the database catalog information associated with the desired data and relating to the partitioning schema; identifying a partition identifier associated with a partition that includes data satisfying the query based upon the contents of the query and the retrieved database catalog information; and executing the query against the partition, whereby the desired data is retrieved. Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended for consistency with their amended parent claims.

The Sonderegger et al. patent does not disclose, teach or suggest these features. Rather, the Sondregger et al. patent is directed toward a method and apparatus for management of application programs in a computer network. A modified hierarchical database which includes application objects that represent applications and their execution environments is utilized. Administrator tools support the creation, deletion and modification of application objects. Each application object includes the location of an executable code for given application, an icon, a working directory name, drive mappings, printer port captures, command line parameters and similar information. An application launcher queries the database and updates a list of available applications which is kept in the user's desktop (e.g., See Abstract). The database is disclosed as a "synchronized-partition" database and is typically divided into two or more non-overlapping partitions. To improve the response time to database queries and to provide fault tolerance, a

replica of each partition is physically stored in one or more file servers in a network (e.g. See Column 6, lines 60 - 66).

Thus, the Sondregger et al. patent discloses maintenance of application objects in a database to manage programs in a computer network. Although the application objects are stored in a partition database, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion, as conceded by the Examiner, of the selection of a partition identifier based on the query and database catalog information and of executing queries against the identified partition as recited in the independent claims.

The Agarwal et al. patent does not compensate for the deficiencies of the Sonderegger et al. patent and similarly does not disclose, teach or suggest the features discussed above. Rather, the Agarwal et al. patent is directed toward a method and mechanism to execute a query against a partitioned database object. Data processed or created for an earlier partition is maintained even after further processing is performed against a subsequent partition. A shared data object, such as a context object, is maintained to store data from processing the partitions of a partition table. Rather than discarding or overriding the shared data object after processing each partition, the data from a subsequent partition is instead appended to the shared data object (e.g., See Abstract). This enables data for every partition to exist in a shared data object (e.g., See Column 3, Lines 16 - 24).

Although the Agarwal et al. patent discloses that partitions not containing information relative to the query may be pruned from the search (e.g., See Column 4, Lines 50 - 54), there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of the manner in which the pruning is accomplished or, for that matter, retrieving database catalog information associated with desired data and relating to
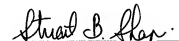
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the partitioning schema, identifying a partition identifier associated with a partition including data satisfying the query based upon the contents of the query and the retrieved database catalog information, and executing the query against the partition, whereby desired data is retrieved as recited in the independent claims.

Since the Sonderegger et al. and the Agarwal et al. patents do not disclose, teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the features recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 13 as discussed above, these claims are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 - 6, 8 - 12 and 14 - 18 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 7 and 13, respectively, and therefore, include all the limitations of their parent claims. These claims are considered to be in condition for allowance for substantially the same reasons discussed above in relation to their parent claims and for further limitations recited in the dependent claims.

The application, having been shown to overcome the issues raised in the Office Action, is considered to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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